



# The County Seat

News from the Leesburg District

August 2002

From Mark Herring  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

**Welcome! *The County Seat: News from the Leesburg District* is an electronic newsletter to update you on recent events related to the Loudoun County Government and the actions of the Board of Supervisors, especially as they affect residents in the Leesburg District. I am hopeful *The County Seat* will help you stay informed about your County government and improve communications with me as your elected representative on the Board. I invite you to read the updates in this issue and welcome your comments and opinions.**

*Mark Herring*

**Mark Herring**



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## Zoning Ordinance Update

The initial draft of the amendments to the zoning ordinance relating to the comprehensive countywide remapping is almost complete. The amendments are crucial to the implementation of the Revised Comprehensive Plan. All parcel owners in Loudoun County outside of the incorporated towns and the Route 28 Transportation Improvement District, will receive a letter from the Planning Commission Chair, Kathryn Miller, in early August notifying them of proposed zoning changes that may affect their property. Included in the draft are proposed zoning map changes in the Leesburg Joint Land Management Area (JLMA) in the vicinity of the Leesburg Airport. Information on the proposed zoning ordinance amendments can be found at <http://www.co.loudoun.va.us/revisedcomp/docs>.

The Loudoun County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments, including a new zoning map and text amendments, on Wednesday, August 14th and Saturday, August 17th. The August 14th hearing will be made up of two sessions, one beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the second at 6:00 p.m. The August 17th session will begin at 9:00 a.m. All sessions will be held at the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE in Leesburg. If you would like to speak, more information about signing up will be available on the County website.

## Annexation

The Town of Leesburg has filed and received a 6-month extension on its annexation petition from the Council of Local Governments. This will allow the newly elected Town Council members time to further study the annexation issue. The public hearing scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date. I will keep you informed of further developments.

## **Transportation**

### **Follow up on Sycolin Road**

On July 15, 2002, the Board approved a revised VDOT six-year plan for Loudoun County. The revised plan included a proposal to accelerate the paving of remaining unpaved sections of Sycolin Road between the Leesburg Airport and Route 659 (Belmont Ridge Road), which will make it easier for residents of Kincaid Forest, Tavistock Farms and other Southeast Leesburg neighborhoods to access the Greenway (via Belmont Ridge Road). It will also allow Ashburn residents easier access to the future Phil Bolen Park. The project is now planned to be completed in five years rather than eight or more as originally proposed.



### **Route 15 South**

The Virginia Department of Transportation, Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg will conduct a Citizen Information Meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm – 8pm at the County Government Center. The meeting will provide interested citizens an opportunity to informally review and discuss with VDOT, Loudoun County and Town of Leesburg representatives the proposed widening of Route 15 from Woodlea Drive in Loudoun County to Evergreen Mill Road in the Town of Leesburg. This project will provide landscaping, gateway design, and a separate trail nearby. There will be a brief presentation beginning at 6pm followed by a question and answer period. Public comments may be submitted at the meeting or sent to VDOT, 1401 East Broad Street, Room 713, Richmond, Virginia 23219, postmarked no later than August 9th.

## **Loudoun County Public Schools**

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board of Supervisors moved to approve the Boundary Line Adjustment Agreement between the County of Loudoun and the Town of Leesburg, which will allow the development of the property for the future Leesburg elementary and middle schools. The new schools will be located on the former O'Connor property off of North King Street. A site plan has been submitted for the elementary school and construction is scheduled to begin this month.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Loudoun County School Board approved the names of the new elementary school to be named in honor of Frances Hazel Reid, a longtime Loudoun journalist and former director of the Loudoun County Historical Society. The middle school, which will be constructed next to Reid Elementary will be named Smart's Mill Middle School after a ford once located nearby on the Potomac River.



*Heritage High School in Leesburg  
Opening in August 2002*

Community Input Meetings for Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School boundaries will be held on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm and Wednesday, October 23 at Harper Park Middle School. Subsequent meetings will follow after those October dates to finalize the boundary lines. Community Input Meetings for the middle school will be held early next year.

## Loudoun County Adult Detention Center

Some Southeast Leesburg residents have expressed concerns about the planned Loudoun County Adult Detention Center, which will be constructed off Sycolin Road and is scheduled to open in May 2005. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about the history of the project.

The need for a new and expanded Adult Detention Center had been identified in the 1980's. The prior Board of Supervisors decided in 1997 to proceed with building a new facility after an operational and procedural audit found the current facility to be small, antiquated and inefficient in effectively managing the inmate population. The prior Board also decided in 1997 to designate the site off of Sycolin Road under its capital improvement program for the new detention center.

The site, which was purchased by the County in 1985, is a portion of 92 acres owned by the County and designated for government support facilities. My understanding is that using this site saved the County money, because it was already owned by the County and was appropriately zoned to house a detention center facility. The center will occupy 12 acres and will operate as a state-of-the-art facility with the most modernized and efficient systems for securing inmates. It is located near current government support facilities, including the proposed 50,000 square foot Sheriff's Office and in close proximity to the Virginia State Police Office.

The new detention center will be 80,000 square feet and can accommodate an inmate population of 216. Inmates housed at this facility are awaiting trial in the local courts for charges ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. The center will also house inmates with sentences of one year or less. Inmates with longer sentences, convicted of more serious crimes will be transferred to Peumansend Creek Regional Jail in Caroline County or a State or Federal Corrections facility depending on their convictions. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2005.

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*I would like to hear from you! For opinion or comment, please contact:*

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